

Washington, DC – U.S. Congressman Ciro D. Rodriguez (TX-23) announced Tuesday that San Antonio will receive \$1,849,246 in Lead Hazard Reduction Demonstration funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to evaluate 247 homes for the presence of lead, remove lead hazards in 247 homes and educate at least 150 people through community outreach.

“The home is one place where children should be safe and protected,” said Congressman Rodriguez. “This grant will go a long way toward helping the City and other partners identify and remove lead in more than 200 homes and train people in how to deal safely with this often toxic substance.”

The grant was part of more than \$118 million in HUD grants nationwide announced Sunday by HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan during a visit to San Antonio. Congressman Rodriguez, who provided a letter of support for the City’s application in July, met with HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan over the weekend to discuss HUD’s lead reduction program and other housing issues facing the community.

The grants will help eliminate lead hazards in more than 9,000 homes; train workers in lead safety methods and promote public awareness about lead poisoning. The funding will also provide training to 175 people in lead safe work practices. In this effort, the City of San Antonio will partner with Antioch Missionary Baptist Church, the San Antonio Fire Department and the Martinez Women’s Center.

In a statement issued after the announcement, Secretary Donovan said children need to live in healthy homes in order to grow up healthy.

“HUD is helping communities around the nation protect children from lead poisoning as part of HUD’s effort to help make the nation’s housing healthy, green, energy efficient and sustainable,” Secretary Donovan said.

According to HUD estimates, approximately 24 million homes in the United States still have lead-based paint today, despite the fact that lead-based paint was banned for use in homes more than 30 years ago. The dust that arises from the paint can cause lead exposure and result in health problems, particularly for young children, including reduced IQ, learning disabilities,

developmental delays, reduced height and impaired hearing, HUD indicates. Kidneys and the central nervous system can also be affected and anemia, coma, convulsions and death could result when the level of exposure is high.

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